Project proposals for rejuvenation of lakes from Karnataka

1865. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has submitted project proposals for rejuvenation of lakes in Chikmagalur, Bidar and Davanegere cities at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.78 crores to the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the current status of these proposals; and

(c) by when the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Based on the preliminary examination of the proposals, clarifications have been sought from the Governments of Karnataka. These are awaited.

Under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP), State Governments *vide* Ministry's letter dated 4.6.2004, were asked to send prioritization of lakes in their States. The Government of Karnataka has sent the prioritization *vide* letter dated 18.2.2005. Projects under NLCP are taken up based on the prioritization received and availability of funds under the Plan.

Damage by wild elephants in Chhattisgarh

1866. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report regarding damage to human lives, crops and houses, etc. By migratory wild elephants in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details about the extent of damage caused and compensation, if any , paid to the victims, during the last two years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include the area affected by the wild elephants under 'Project Elephant'; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop the damage by these elephants and the details of proposal sent by State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b)Yes Sir. As per the report received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh there were 16 cases of human casualties and 6971 cases of damage to the property in the State during the last two years. The total compensation paid was Rs. 15,20,000/- for loss of human lives and Rs. 97,31,118/- for damage to the property.

(c) There was a request from the State Government to include Chhattisgarh under 'Project Elephant'. However, Government of India have not found the proposal feasible as Chhattisgarh forests do not form the original habitat of elephants nor the elephant population was found viable for establishing an elephant reserve in the State.

(d) The Government of India has provided financial assistance to the State under Centrally sponsored scheme of "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries". In addition the following steps have been taken by State Government to stop the damage caused by wild elephants:

(i) Awareness creation among the villagers to minimize the loss to human being and to the property through trained personnel of the department;

(ii) Crackers provided to keep elephants away from the villages;

(iii) Erection of solar fencing in Badalkhol sanctuary of Jashpur district;

(iv) Compensation of Rs. 1 lakh for human casualty and actual damage to the crop and houses in paid after evaluation by the revenue authorities;

The State Government has submitted proposals to the tune of Rs. 43.00 crores for the year 2005-06 to 2009-10 and separately for Rs. 5.06 crores for the year 2005-06 for items that include habitat improvement, water resource development, mitigation measures for man-elephant conflict, payment of compensation, infrastructure development etc.,

Pollution on western coast

1867. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that heavy pollution in the waters of the western coast after the monsoon are killing shoals of fish;